



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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October 24, 2003

**Inquiry:** I am a Respiratory Therapist in an Emergency Room, and was wondering if an RCP can administer IM Steroids In the treatment of various respiratory illnesses (Croup, Asthma, ECT). Can you help answer this for me?

**Response:** Section 3702, paragraph 1 and its subsequent paragraphs, describe the practice of your inquiry. The act of injecting a pharmacologic agent as a treatment when prescribed by a physician is definitely within the scope of a licensed Respiratory Care Practitioner.

Additionally, the intent of the Practice Act recognizes the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel to permit additional sharing of functions within organized health care systems (3701, Article 1, General Provisions). As such, the onus is on the organized health care system to determine and institute appropriate guidelines, training and competencies that would provide any shared functions in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

Reference # 2003-C-31

*This determination does not constitute a declaratory decision under the comprehensive provisions of the Government Code sections 11465.10 – 11465.70.*